

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

In the Claims:

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A storage system, comprising:
 - a storage unit;
 - a plurality of inner storage units removeably positioned within the storage unit;
 - a plurality of tracking devices configured to (i) monitor ~~monitoring~~ the presence of a plurality of items associated with each of the inner storage units, (ii) monitor ~~monitoring~~ the temperature of the items and (iii) generate ~~generating~~ tracking data, with a real-time clock tracking the timing of ~~[[the]]~~ events associated with the items ~~item associated with the tracking device, the events~~ including temperature, location and access to the plurality of items by a user ~~through an identification of the user; [[and]]~~
 - an access control system granting access and identifying access to the plurality of items by the user through an identification of the user; and
 - a processing device that reads and records the tracking data from the plurality of tracking devices, the timing of the events, and the identification of the user ~~from the access control system device for recording of all information being tracked.~~

2. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The storage system of claim 1, further comprising:

a data storage device that is electrically linked to the processing device;

and

~~an access control system granting access and identifying access to the~~
~~inner storage unit associated with the items,~~

wherein the tracking devices are formed in a matrix on each of the inner storage units tracking each of the items in each of the inner storage units, each of the tracking devices communicating with a network to store and receive information with regard to profiling the temperature, tracking the location of the items and access by users to the plurality of items, the identification of the user being made through an identification number associated with the user.

3. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The storage system of claim 2, wherein the tracking data is stored in the data storage device including historical and current information related to the items, with the tracking device being integrated into the construction of the inner storage unit and each tracking device having a unique identifier.

4. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The storage system of claim 1, wherein in the inner storage unit is a rack and ~~[[an]]~~ the access device is integrated with the rack~~[[,]]~~ and ~~granting~~ grants access and ~~identifying~~ identifies access to the rack.

5. (ORIGINAL) The storage system of claim 1, wherein the inner storage unit is a drawer storage rack.

6. (ORIGINAL) The storage system of claim 1, wherein the inner storage unit is a drawer.

7. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The storage system of claim 1, wherein the inner storage unit is a shelf having electrodes, and further wherein the electrodes of the shelf are electrically connected to a network with the processing device so that the status of the items is monitored.

8. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The storage system of claim 1, wherein the inner storage unit is a tray, with the items being electronically linked to the tray that is electronically linked to a data storage device storing the tracking data from the items with respect to the tray, the data storage device being controlled by the processing device.

9. (ORIGINAL) The storage system of claim 1, wherein the inner storage unit is a petri dish.

10. (ORIGINAL) The storage system of claim 1, wherein the inner storage unit is a blood bag.

11. (ORIGINAL) The storage system of claim 1, wherein the inner storage unit has a conductive portion that electrically links the tracking device to the processing device.

12. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The storage system of claim 11, wherein the conductive portion is a hook, with the hook being placed on a top and a bottom surface of the inner storage container, the inner storage container being a pouch.

13. (ORIGINAL) The storage system of claim 11, wherein the conductive portion is a phono jack.

14. (ORIGINAL) The storage system of claim 11, wherein the conductive portion is an accordion cable.

15. (ORIGINAL) The storage system of claim 11, wherein the conductive portion is a connector.

16-20. CANCELED.

21. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A storage system, comprising:

means for storing a plurality of items;

means for removably storing the plurality of items;

means for tracking the plurality of items, wherein the tracking means is configured to (i) monitor ~~monitors~~ the presence of at least ~~[[an]]~~ one item associated with the storing means, (ii) monitor ~~monitors~~ the temperature of the item and (iii) generate ~~generates~~ tracking data, with a real-time clock tracking the timing of ~~[[the]]~~ events associated with the item associated with the tracking means for a plurality of discrete time intervals and tracking, the events including location and ~~[[user]]~~ access to the plurality of items by a user, ~~the user being identified electronically via an associated identification;~~ ~~[[and]]~~

means for granting access and identifying access to the item by the user through an identification of the user; and

means for processing, wherein the processing means reads and records the tracking data from the tracking means, the timing of events, and the identification of the user from the means for granting access and identifying access to the item by the user.

22. (NEW) A storage system, comprising:

a storage unit;

a plurality of tracking devices configured to (i) monitor the presence of a plurality of items removably stored within the storage unit and (ii) generate tracking data, with a real-time clock tracking the timing of events associated with the items, the events including location and access to the plurality of items by a user;

an access control system granting access and identifying access to the plurality of items by the user through an identification of the user; and

a processing device that reads and records the tracking data from the plurality of tracking devices, the timing of events, and the identification of the user from the access control system.

23. (NEW) The storage system of claim 22, wherein the plurality of tracking devices are further configured to (iii) monitor the temperature of the items.

24. (NEW) The storage system of claim 23, wherein the events further include the temperature of the items.